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Letter dated 18 April 2008 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the joint communiqué of the meeting between the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 17 April 2008 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dumisani S. **Kumalo**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the Republic of South Africa

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Annex to the letter dated 18 April 2008 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Joint communiqué of the meeting between the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council

New York, 17 April 2007

1. *Recalling* that the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and recalling the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations on the relationship with regional arrangements;

2. *Recognizing* that an effective relationship between the United Nations and the African Union , in particular the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council would contribute significantly towards addressing common peace and security challenges and facilitate their resolution in Africa;

3. *Reaffirming* the importance of the AU's role in the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter and Constitutive Act of the AU Protocol, the importance of co-ordination between the UN and AU in pursuance of this role and of making full use of the UN and AU's complementary capacities and experience;

4. *In that regard, underlining* the importance and the need for the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture, especially the African Standby Force and the continental Early Warning System;

5. *Recalling the* Presidential Statements and decisions of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council on the relationship between the two bodies;

6. *Recalling* also the joint Communiqué agreed by the UN Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council on 16 June 2007;

7. At our second meeting, both Councils explored ways and means of developing a stronger working relationship between the two bodies, and following an exchange of views expressed satisfaction with the ongoing efforts to strengthen their relationship, through:

a) enhancing cooperation in the fields of conflict prevention, management and resolution, including in respect of issues such as the good offices of the Secretary-General, mediation support, effective use of sanctions, early warning and support of the AU Panel of the Wise; peacekeeping and peace building;

b) taking steps to identify predictable, sustainable and flexible resources for the African Union, in order to undertake peacekeeping operations in the context of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter;

c) sharing of experiences on working methods between the two structures;

d) encouraging the implementation of the 10-Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU, in particular between the UN Secretariat and the AU Commission and looking forward to the first review by the two organization of the Programme;

e) discussing ways that the UNSC and the broader international community can cooperate with the AU to assist it in further developing its military planning, technical, logistical, financial management and administrative capacities, so that the AU is able to conduct peacekeeping operations in the most effective, transparent and accountable manner;

f) sharing information on African conflict situations on the respective agendas of the two bodies, including but not limited to Somalia; Sudan; Cote d'Ivoire and DRC.

8. *We welcome* the progress made in the establishment of the African Peace and Security architecture and we *re-affirm* our determination to strengthen the AU conflict prevention, management and resolution capacities and post-conflict stabilization capacities, through:

a) assessing regularly the developments in the region;

b) supporting African regional and sub-regional capacities for early warning to enable prompt response to early warning indicators; and

c) supporting African Union capacities for mediation;

9. In this regard we welcome initiatives such as the African Union Peacekeeping Support Team established by the United Nations, the capacity building efforts undertaken by the EU in the framework of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership, and other actions, including bilateral initiatives in support of AU capacity-building that will contribute, in a coordinated way to improvements in mission planning and mission management.

10. We look forward to further discussions at our next meeting in Addis Ababa 2009.